



Shellfish/Seaweed Rules

1



Before Harvesting:

Check the Beach List to determine if a beach is open, or if there are health restrictions.

2



Marine Toxin Levels:

Can change rapidly, call:

The Department of Health Marine Biotoxin Hotline 1-800-562-5632 or check the Internet <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/biotoxin.htm>

3



Areas Listed on Biotoxin Hotline:

Do not harvest in areas listed as closed on the Biotoxin Hotline, **also avoid taking other shellfish which eat clams (such as moon snails or hairy tritons).**

4



Rule Change Information:

Conditions may arise which require sudden changes in regulations. These changes will be announced to local news media and included on the **Shellfish Rule Change Hotline (360) 796-3215 or website www.wa.gov/wdfw/fish/shellfish/.**

Safe Handling Practices

- Water color does not indicate shellfish safety.
- Rinse your catch in salt (not fresh) water. Quickly cool your catch on ice or in a refrigerator and cook as soon as possible.
- Wash all seaweed before eating.
- Cook shellfish adequately before eating. This does not destroy biotoxins, but can help prevent illness caused by naturally occurring bacteria or bacteria caused by pollution.
- Cooking, rinsing, or freezing does not destroy biotoxins. Crab can also concentrate biotoxins in their internal organs. Clean crabs before cooking. Eat only the meat. Eating shellfish with high concentrations of biotoxins may cause illness or death!

Marine Toxins & Pollution

Shellfish or seaweed may be contaminated from exposure to bacteria, biotoxins, viruses, or chemicals. Consumption of contaminated shellfish or seaweed can pose a health risk to humans. One potential biotoxin is Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) also called "red tide." PSP becomes a problem when clams, oysters, scallops, mussels, or other shellfish consume and concentrate a microscopic algae which contains a potentially lethal biotoxin. Symptoms include numbness of the tongue and lips and tingling in the extremities and fingertips. This may be followed by loss of muscular control and difficulty in breathing. Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP) results when shellfish concentrate a different biotoxin called domoic acid. Symptoms of ASP include abdominal cramps, diarrhea, vomiting, disorientation, dizziness, and memory loss. If any of these symptoms occur after eating shellfish, get immediate medical attention.

Tideland Ownership

Most Puget Sound, Hood Canal, Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay beaches are privately owned. Shellfish/seaweed may not be taken from private beaches without the owner's or lessee's permission. When harvesting from public beaches, remain within the public beach boundaries. Private tideland owners and lessees, and members of their immediate family (grandparents, parents, spouse, siblings, children, and grandchildren) are exempt from personal use daily limits and shellfish licenses when taking clams, oysters, and mussels harvested for their own personal use from their own tidelands. Daily limits apply for all other shellfish, all other people, and all other beaches. Everyone harvesting large quantities of shellfish for presumed commercial purposes needs a shellfish certification from the Department of Health (see RCW 69.30.010(8)). Tideland owners should contact Fish and Wildlife Enforcement or Department of Health for specific rules.

Shellfish Enhancement

Some beaches have increased harvest opportunity as a result of WDFW enhancement activities. Harvest is encouraged within these areas, which are marked with signs attached to yellow posts (see Beach List).

Possession Limit

One daily limit in fresh form. Additional shellfish may be possessed in frozen or processed form.

License

A Shellfish/Seaweed License is required for all shellfish (except crawfish) and all seaweed harvest and must be displayed on the outside of clothing during shellfish harvest and transport. A license is not required for unclassified marine invertebrates. A catch record card is required to fish for Dungeness crab. See License Requirements. Everyone claiming a limit must actively participate in the harvesting unless they possess a disability license.

Specific Closures

For all Shellfish Species, see Marine Area maps for closures pertaining to the following areas: San Juan Islands Marine Preserve (Area 7); Edmonds Public Fishing Pier and Brackett's Landing Shoreline Sanctuary (Area 9); Elliot Bay Public Fishing Pier, Orchard Rocks Conservation Area, and Eagle Harbor (Area 10); Des Moines Fishing Pier, Les Davis Fishing Pier, Colvos Passage Marine Preserve, City of Des Moines Park, and South 239th Street Park (Area 11); Sund Rock Marine Preserve, Waketickeh Creek Conservation Area and Octopus Hole Conservation Area (Area 12); and Saltar's Point Conservation Area and Titlow Beach Marine Preserve (Area 13).



Pacific Razor Clam

Siliqua patula

Grows to 6"; fragile, thin elongated shells are covered with shiny, tan laquer-like skin coating the shell. Found only on Pacific coastal beaches.

OCEAN RAZOR CLAM BEACH DESCRIPTIONS

Long Beach: from North Head to Leadbetter Point (includes Seaview, Cranberry, Klipsan, Ocean Park and Oysterville).

Twin Harbors: Cape Shoalwater to the Grays Harbor South Jetty (includes North Cove, Grayland, and Westport).

Copalis: Grays Harbor North Jetty to the Copalis River (includes Ocean Shores, Oyuhut, Ocean City, and Copalis).

Mocrocks: Copalis River to the southern boundary of the Quinault Indian Nation (includes Iron Springs, Roosevelt, Pacific Beach, and Moclips).

Kalaloch: Olympic National Park South Beach Campground to Brown's Point (just south of Olympic National Park Beach Trail #3).

PERMANENT RAZOR CLAM RESERVE CLOSURES

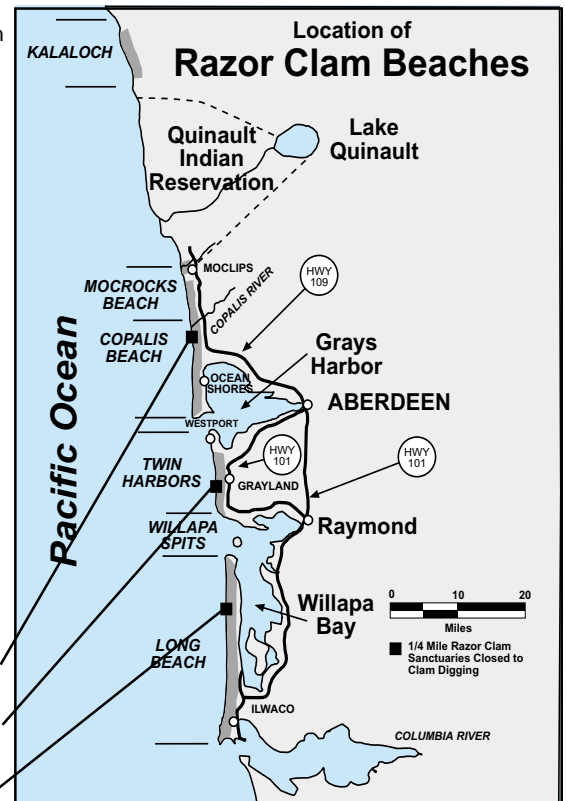
(Areas marked with posts and signs)

Razor clam sanctuaries (Reserves) are 1/4 mile sections of coastal ocean beaches located on three beach areas that are used to assist in the management of the razor clam resource. The three areas are marked with metal posts and are signed to designate a "no digging" area. The three areas are:

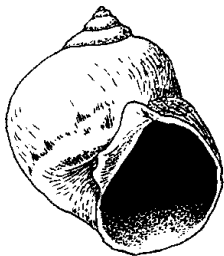
Copalis Beach - from a point 4/10 of a mile south of the Ocean City approach (2nd Ave.) and extending south for 1/4 mile.

Twin Harbors Reserve - from the middle of the County Line Road approach south for 1/4 mile.

Long Beach Reserve - beginning 2.7 miles north of the Oysterville approach and extending north for 1/4 mile.

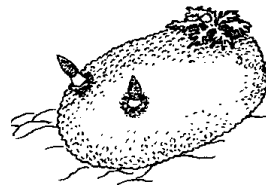


Selected Unclassified Marine Invertebrates



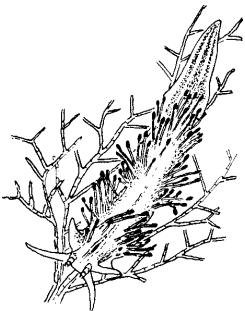
Moonsnail

The Moon Snail inhabits clean sandy beaches protected from heavy surf, and fairly protected beaches where the sand is mixed with mud, from intertidal to deep water. It is one of the largest snails on our coast. Its light brown shell is about 12 cm in height and made up almost entirely of one great whorl.



Sea Lemon Nudibranch

Common in the low intertidal zone on moist rocks, in tidepools, and on pilings. This is one of the largest and most conspicuous nudibranchs, usually 6-7 cm long. Sea Lemons are bright yellow or orange in color with black, peppery dots. They have horn-like antennae at the front end and feathery gills near the rear end.



Opalescent Nudibranch

Found in a variety of habitats; on rocky shores among seaweeds, in eelgrass beds, dock pilings, mud flats, and in kelp. This beautiful nudibranch is white with orange or red streaks, and a blue line, like a neon light, decorates each side. Generally about 4 cm long.



Oyster Drill Snail and Egg Case

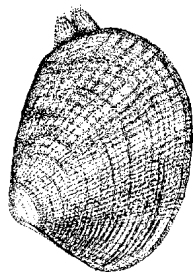
The shell is about 1-1/2" with ornate ridges. Egg cases are yellow to reddish. A voracious predator of marine bivalves. Do not transport from one beach to another.

Drawings by Phillip Croft (*Exploring the Seashore*, 1978 and Oregon Sea Grant Program and Washington Sea Grant Program, 1999).

Common Intertidal Shellfish

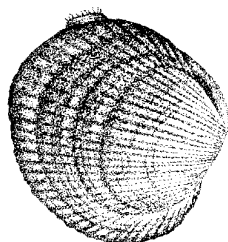


These four species have a 1 1/2" minimum size limit.



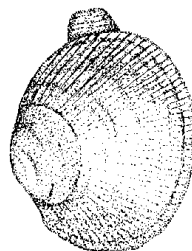
Manila littleneck clam
Tapes philippinarum

Average size is 1-2", up to 2-1/2". Oblong shell has concentric and radiating lines. May have colored, patterned shells. Found to 4" below surface.



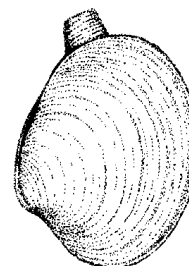
Cockle clam
Clinocardium nuttallii

Prominent, evenly-spaced ridges which fan out from the hinge. Mottled, light brown. Can grow to 5". Found just below surface.



Native littleneck clam
Protothaca staminea

Average size is 1-2", up to 2-1/2". Rounded shell has concentric and radiating lines. Found 6-10" below surface.



Butter clam
Saxidomus giganteus

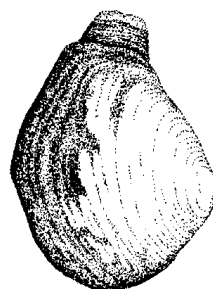
Average size is 3-4", up to 6". Shells are usually chalky-white with no radiating ridges. The siphon can be pulled into its shell. Usually found 12-18" below surface.

(Not to scale)



Geoduck clam
Panopea abrupta

Heavy, oblong shell, rounded at one end. Appears cut-off at the other. The siphon can't be retracted. Found 2-3 feet below surface. Can weigh up to 10 lbs.



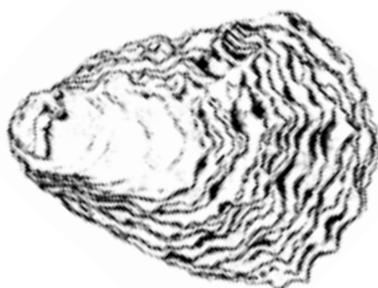
Horse clam
Tresus capax (shown)
Tresus nuttalli (not shown)

Large, can be up to 8". Shell is chalky-white with yellow-brown patches of "skin". The siphon can't be pulled into shell and has a leather-like flap on the tip. Found 1-2 feet below surface.



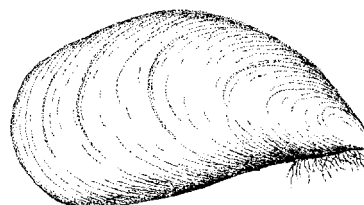
(Eastern) Softshell clam
Mya arenaria

Can grow to 6". Shells are soft, chalky-white with a rough irregular surface. Shell is rounded at the foot end, pointed at the siphon end. Found to 18" below surface.



Pacific oyster
Crassostrea gigas

Irregular, chalky-white shell. Often found in groups attached to one another or a solid object.



Mussel
Mytilus trossulus (shown)
Mytilus galloprovincialis (not shown)

Grows to 3-6". Oblong, blue-black or brown shells. Attaches to solid objects by fine threads.



Beach List

The following pages list public beaches with special rules because of resource needs and/or restrictions on harvest due to health concerns. **If a beach is not listed, it is open for recreational harvest year-round unless closed by emergency rule or marine toxins/PSP levels.** Not all public beaches have been evaluated by the State Department of Health, so the health risk of an unlisted beach may not be known. If you have questions about safety on any beach, call the local county health department or the State Health Department at (360) 753-5992. In addition, local health departments may have posted beaches within their jurisdiction that are not listed here - look for warning signs. See Marine Area maps for some beach locations.

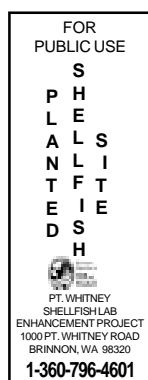
BEACH NAME	CLAM/MUSSEL SEASON	OYSTER SEASON	REMARKS
Ala Spit (Ben Ure Spit)	Jan. 1-May 31		Northeast Whidbey Island. No natural production of oysters.
Brown Point (DNR 57-B)	Jan. 1-July 31	CLOSED	See ** below.
Cama Beach State Park	CLOSED	CLOSED	
Camano Island State Park	June 1-June 30		No natural production of oysters.
Cline Spit	CLOSED		No natural production of oysters.
Cutts Island State Park	Jan. 1-June 15		No natural production of oysters.
Dabob Bay	All state-owned tidelands in Dabob Bay north of a line drawn from Camp Harmony to Lindsay's Beach are closed to clam and oyster harvest the entire year except as follows: state-owned tidelands from a row of tires at Camp Discovery south approximately 2,000' to a second row of tires and state-owned tidelands beginning approximately 3/4 mile north of Camp Harmony extending approximately 1,200' north; state-owned tidelands from markers and signs posted immediately north of the community of Lindsay's Beach north to a line immediately north of Broadspit (identified by markers and signs) are open year-round. Boat access only.		
Dosewallips State Park	July 1-Sept. 15	July 1-Sept. 15	Open only in area defined by boundary markers and posted signs.
Duckabush	CLOSED	CLOSED	All state-owned tidelands on the west shore of Hood Canal from Quatsap Point to the south end of the Duckabush River flats. See * below.
Dungeness Spit			Check with Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge for details (360) 457-8451. No natural production of oysters.
Eagle Creek	Jan. 1-May 31	Jan. 1-June 30	No natural production of oysters.
Fort Flagler State Park	Apr. 1-June 30		No natural production of oysters.
Frye Cove County Park	Jan. 1-May 31		
Garrison Bay/British Camp	All tidelands of Guss Island, and all state and federally owned tidelands at British Camp (San Juan County) between the National Park Service dinghy dock and the southern park boundary, are closed to clam harvest year-round. Tidelands north of the dinghy dock to Bell Point are open year-round. No natural production of oysters.		
Gertrude Island	CLOSED		All tidelands closed entire year. No natural production of oysters.
Hope Island State Park	Apr. 1-Apr. 30		Located in South Puget Sound. No natural production of oysters.
Illahee State Park	CLOSED	CLOSED	
Kayak Point County Park	May 1-May 15		No natural production of oysters. Open to harvest of mussels all year.
	Aug. 1-Aug. 15		
Kitsap Memorial State Park	June 1-June 30	June 1-Aug. 31	
Kopachuck State Park	CLOSED	May 1-May 31	No natural production of oysters.
McNeil Island	CLOSED		All tidelands closed entire year. No natural production of oysters.
Menard's Landing			See Rendsland Creek.
Mukilteo State Park	CLOSED		No natural production of oysters.
Mystery Bay State Park	Oct. 1-Apr. 30	Oct. 1-Aug. 31	Health closure May 1-Sept. 30. See ** below.
Nahcotta Tidelands	CLOSED	Jan. 1-Dec. 31	Open only in the area defined by boundary markers and posted signs.
North Bay	All state-owned tidelands in North Bay (Case Inlet) north of a line drawn southwest from Rocky Point to the north end of Reach Island then due west to the mainland are closed to the harvest of clams and oysters year-round except state-owned tidelands on the east side of North Bay north of the power transmission line and south of the power transmission lines 1600 ft. are open year-round.		
Oak Bay County Park	July 1-July 15		Formerly Oak Bay West. No natural production of oysters.
Oyster Reserves, state-owned	State-owned oyster reserves are closed to the harvest of clams and oysters except - Case Inlet : state-owned tidelands on the east side of North Bay north of the power transmission lines and south 1600 feet from the power lines crossing the bay are open. Oakland Bay : state-owned tidelands on the north and northeast shore of the Bayshore Peninsula between state markers are open to clam and oyster harvest Mar. 1-Sept. 30. Willapa Bay : Diamond Point on the northwest side of Long Island between reserve monuments 39-41, and Pinnacle Rock on the southwest side of Long Island between reserve monuments 58-59 are open year-round to clams and oysters.		
Pacific Ocean beaches & Strait of Juan de Fuca west of Dungeness Spit	Nov. 1-Mar. 31	Nov. 1-Mar. 31	Closed Apr. 1-Oct. 31 (unless listed otherwise) because of PSP (except razor clams).
Penrose Point State Park	May 1-May 15	May 1-June 30	No natural production of oysters.
Pillar Point County Park	Nov. 1-Apr. 30		See ** below.
Pitship Point	CLOSED	Health restriction	
Pitt Island	CLOSED		All tidelands closed entire year. No natural production of oysters.

Beach List



BEACH NAME	CLAM/MUSSEL SEASON	OYSTER SEASON	REMARKS
Point Whitney Lagoon Point Whitney Tidelands Port Townsend Ship Canal Potlatch DNR Tidelands Potlatch East Potlatch State Park Purdy Spit County Park	June 1-June 30 May 1-June 30 Apr. 1-May 15 Apr. 1-July 15 Apr. 1-July 15 Apr. 1-July 15 CLOSED	Jan. 1-Dec. 31 Apr. 1-Aug. 31 Apr. 1-July 15 Apr. 1-July 15	Excluding Point Whitney Lagoon. No natural production of oysters. See Marine Area 9 map. Southern shore of the spit, from the boat ramp east to the bridge is closed. No natural production of oysters.
Quilcene Bay	Apr. 1-Sept. 30	Apr. 1-Sept. 30	All state-owned tidelands in Quilcene Bay north of a line drawn from the Quilcene Boat Haven to Fisherman's Point are closed except those tidelands defined by boundary markers and signs at the beach on the west side of bay. Open from official sunrise to official sunset.
Rendsland Creek	Jan. 1-Apr. 30	Jan. 1-Dec. 31	Also known as Menard's Landing.
Saltwater State Park Scenic Beach State Park Sequim Bay State Park, North and South sections	CLOSED Apr. 16-June 15 May 1-June 30	Apr. 16-July 15	No natural production of oysters. Health closure Sept. 1-Sept. 15 from the wooden bulkhead south of the boat launch south to the park boundary. See ** below. No natural production of oysters.
Shine Tidelands State Park Skagit Bay	Jan. 1-May 15 Jan. 1-Dec. 31		East of a line from Browns Point to Swinomish Slough entrance: bonus limit - 20 lbs. of eastern softshell clams in the shell in addition to regular hardshell/softshell clam limit. No natural production of oysters. (Health restriction at Jensen access.)
South Indian Island County Park Spencer Spit State Park Triton Cove Tidelands (Oyster Farm) Triton Cove State Park Twanoh State Park	May 1-Aug. 31 Apr. 1-July 31 CLOSED Apr. 1-June 30 CLOSED	May 1-Aug. 31 May 1-Sept. 30 Apr. 1-June 30 Jan. 1-Dec. 31	No natural production of oysters.
West Dewatto (DNR 44A) Willapa Bay	Jan. 1-May 31 Jan. 1-Dec. 31	Jan. 1-Sept. 30 Jan. 1-Dec. 31	See Marine Area 12 map. Bonus limit: 24 cockles in addition to the regular hardshell/softshell clam limit. See Oyster Reserves, state-owned and Nahcotta Tidelands.
WINAS-Maylor Point - East Wolfe Property State Park	Jan. 1-Dec. 31 Jan. 1-May 15	Jan. 1-June 15	No natural production of oysters. From 7 Sisters Rd. north to the spit connecting Hood Head to the mainland.
<div>* State Department of Health cautions that CLAMS, OYSTERS and MUSSELS are not fit for human consumption at any time.</div> <div>** State Department of Health may recommend periods of no harvest of CLAMS, OYSTERS and MUSSELS due to pollution--contact the local health department in the county in which the beach is located or the Department of Health at (360) 753-5992 before harvesting.</div>			

Intertidal Shellfish Enhancement Program



WDFW shellfish program has planted several public beaches with oysters, clams and geoducks to increase harvest opportunity. The planted areas are identified on the beach by yellow colored fiberglass posts bearing signs as pictured at the left. When the beach is open, harvest is encouraged within the areas marked by these posts. The following planted beaches should provide good opportunity for the listed shellfish:

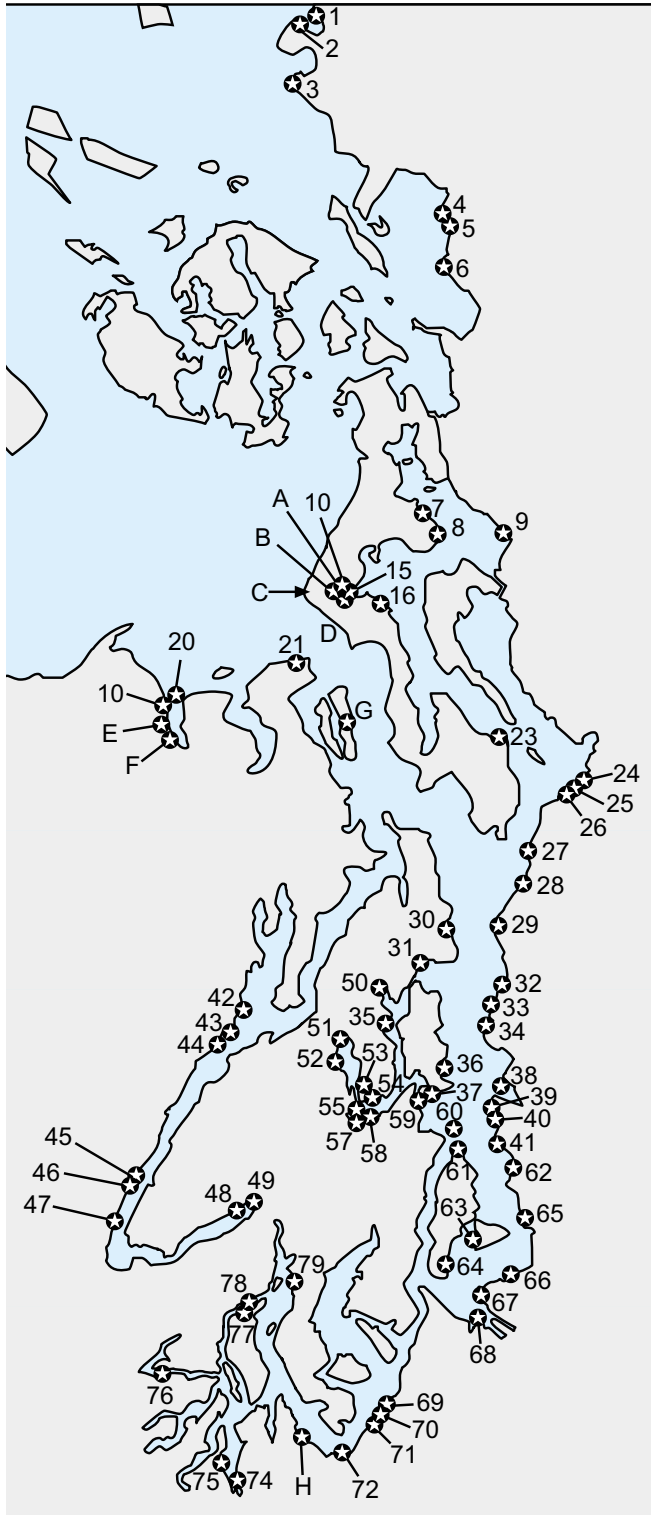
Birch Bay SP - Oysters
Cline Spit SP - Oysters
DNR 24 - Oysters
DNR 44A West Dewatto - Oysters
Eagle Creek - Oysters
Freshwater Bay CP - Oysters
Frye Cove CP - Oysters

Illahee SP - Oysters/Geoducks
Mystery Bay SP - Oysters
North Bay Reserves East - Oysters
Penn Cove Tidelands - Oysters
Penrose SP - Oysters
Point Whitney Lagoon - Clams
Point Whitney Tidelands - Clams

Potlatch SP - Oysters
Potlatch East SP - Clams/Oysters
Rendsland Creek - Oysters
Sequim Bay SP - Oysters/Geoducks
North Sequim Bay SP - Oysters
Shine Tidelands SP - Clams
Twano SP - Oysters



List and locations of beaches with health restrictions for clam and oyster harvest



Before harvesting shellfish check with the State Department of Health (360) 236-3330, the County Health Department, or the DOH website <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/sfbeach.htm> also check the PSP hotline (1-800-562-5632) or on the internet <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/biotoxin.htm>.

On these beaches State Department of Health recommends PERIODS OF NO HARVEST of clams, oysters, and mussels due to pollution:

- A. East San de Fuca
- B. San de Fuca
- C. North Penn Cove
- D. Penn Cove
- E. Pitship Point
- F. Sequim Bay State Park
- G. Mystery Bay
- H. Tolmie State Park

Beaches near ferry docks

The Department of Health cautions that clams, oysters, and mussels on these beaches are NOT fit for human consumption at any time:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Semiahmoo - north and south side of spit and marina | 45 Lilliwaup State Park (south end) |
| 2 Semiahmoo County Park | 46 South Lilliwaup |
| 3 Point Whitehorn | 47 Hoodspout Hatchery |
| 4 Post Point | 48 Belfair State Park |
| 5 Chuckanut Bay -northeast section | 49 Port of Allyn |
| 6 Larrabee State Park | 50 Liberty Bay |
| 7 DNR 144 | 51 Silverdale Shoal & County Park |
| 8 DNR 142 | 52 Chico Bay |
| 9 Skagit Waterfowl Area | 53 Unnamed |
| 10 Penn Cove | 54 Lyons Park |
| 15 Coupeville | 55 Bremerton Bridge/ WA Narrows |
| 16 Harrington Beach | 56 Sinclair Inlet |
| 18 Middleground | 57 Pioneer Quarry |
| 20 DNR 411 | 58 Ross Point |
| 21 North Beach County Park | 59 Manchester State Park |
| 23 Sunrise Beach | 60 Blake Island State Park |
| 24 Port Gardner | 61 Ferry Dock |
| 25 Mukilteo Piers and Tanks | 62 Seahurst County Park |
| 26 Mukilteo State Park | 63 Dockton County Park |
| 27 Picnic Point County Park | 64 DNR 79 |
| 28 Unnamed | 65 Des Moines City Park |
| 29 Marine Beach Park | 66 Dash Point County Park |
| 30 Kingston - north of ferry landing | 67 Brown Point Lighthouse |
| 31 Chief Sealth (Suquamish) | 68 Commencement Bay |
| 32 Carkeek Park | 69 South Gordon Point |
| 33 Golden Gardens | 70 North of Fort Lewis |
| 34 Discovery Park/West Point | 71 Fort Lewis |
| 35 Brownsville (north side) | 72 Nisqually |
| 36 Eagle Harbor | 74 Priest Point County |
| 37 Fort Ward State Park | 75 Olympia Shoal |
| 38 Elliot Bay | 76 Walker County Park |
| 39 Alki Point | 77 Jarrell Cove State |
| 40 Alki Park | 78 DNR 34 |
| 41 Lincoln Park | 79 DNR 18 |
| 42 Dosewallips State Park (south end) | 80 Taylor Bay |
| 43 Pleasant Harbor | |


Species Rules



AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
ABALONE ALL AREAS	PINTO	CLOSED			Surveys show a continued decline in numbers of all size abalone. The closure is necessary to allow regeneration of stocks.
CLAMS, HARDSHELL AND SOFTSHELL Call Marine Biotoxins Hotline before harvesting: 1-800-562-5632. Clams can be dug by hand or hand-operated fork, pick, rake, or shovel. Each digger must use a separate container. Digging equipment may be shared. To reduce clam mortality and danger to other diggers, place any undersized clams 2" to 4" down in hole dug, then refill.					
PUBLIC BEACHES	GEODUCKS	Year-round except as noted on the Beach List.	None	3	First 3 dug. Do not attempt to capture a geoduck by thrusting any instrument through its neck. It is unlawful to possess only the neck of a geoduck.
PUBLIC BEACHES	HORSE CLAMS		None	7	First 7 dug.
PUBLIC BEACHES	NATIVE LITTLENECK		1 1/2"	40 clams or	For species with a minimum size, measure across longest distance of shell. EASTERN SOFTSHELLS must be retained regardless of size or condition.
	MANILAS		1 1/2"	10 lbs. in	
	BUTTERS		1 1/2"	the shell,	
	COCKLES		1 1/2"	whichever	
	EASTERN SOFTSHELLS	None	None	comes first,	
	MACOMAS	None	None	all species	
	ALL OTHER NATIVE	None	None	combined	
	MARINE CLAMS				
Bonus Limits: See Willapa Bay and Skagit Bay on Beach List.					
RAZOR CLAMS COASTAL BEACHES	ALL SPECIES	TO BE ANNOUNCED	None	15	First 15 dug must be kept regardless of size or condition. Each limit must be in a separate container.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May only be taken by hand, hand-operated shovel, or tube with a minimum outside diameter of 4" (4" x 3" if elliptical). All clams dug are part of digger's limit - you may not return any razor clams to the beach or water. It is illegal to drive any vehicle, land an airplane, or lead or ride a horse on razor clam beds (westerly of a line 150 feet waterward of the extreme upper limit of the hard sand area). Pressure from weight of vehicles and digging action of horses' hooves cause clam mortality. The disabled person for whom razor clams are being dug must be in line of sight or within 1/4 mile of the digging site. Both the digger and the disabled person must be licensed. 					
CRAB See page 53.					
CRAWFISH ALL WATERS	CRAWFISH	1st Mon. in May-Oct. 31	3-1/4" tip of rostrum (nose)-tip of tail	10 lbs. in shell	All females with eggs or young attached must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. No Shellfish/Seaweed license is required. See Gear Rules.
GOOSE BARNACLES Call Marine Biotoxins Hotline before harvesting: 1-800-562-5632.					
PUGET SOUND PUBLIC BEACHES		Year-round	None	10 lbs. whole or	
PACIFIC OCEAN BEACHES		Nov. 1-Mar. 31	None	5 lbs. barnacle stalks	
MUSSELS Call Marine Biotoxins Hotline before harvesting: 1-800-562-5632.					
PUGET SOUND PUBLIC BEACHES	ALL SPECIES	Year-round except as noted on the Beach List.	None	10 lbs. in shell	
PACIFIC OCEAN BEACHES	ALL SPECIES	Nov. 1-Mar. 31	None	10 lbs. in shell	



Species Rules

AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
OCTOPUS Octopus must be caught with hands or instrument which does not penetrate the octopus, except that octopus taken while angling with hook and line may be retained.					
ALL WATERS	GIANT PACIFIC	Year-round	None	2	NO CHEMICALS OR IRRITANTS ALLOWED.
OYSTERS Call Marine Biotoxins Hotline before harvesting: 1-800-562-5632 It is illegal to take oysters in water deeper than two feet. Oysters consumed on beach count toward a limit. Oysters may only be harvested by hand or with a hand-held manually operated prying tool (no hammers, etc.). Each harvester must use a separate container.					
PUGET SOUND (other than Hood Canal area described below)		Year-round except as noted on the Beach List	2-1/2"	18	Oysters must be kept in the shell while in the field.
HOOD CANAL (south of a line from Tala Point to Foulweather Bluff) and Marine Areas 1-4			None	18, shucked	Oysters must be shucked on the beach. Leave shells at the same place and tide height where they were taken.
SAND SHRIMP					
PUBLIC BEACHES	ALL SPECIES	Year-round	None	10 dozen	Take by hand or hand-operated suction devices.
SCALLOPS Call Marine Biotoxins Hotline before harvesting: 1-800-562-5632.					
ALL WATERS	PINK AND SPINY	Year-round	None	5 qts. or 10 lbs. in shell	Combined limit for both species. May be harvested only by hand or with a hand-held manually operated prying tool. Hammers or mallets may not be used to harvest rock scallops.
	WEATHERVANE ROCK	Year-round Year-round	4" None	12 12	Measure across longest distance of the shell.
SEA CUCUMBERS					
ALL WATERS	CALIFORNIA	Year-round	None	25 - total of both species	See Eagle Harbor Advisory on Marine Area 10 map and Sinclair Inlet on Beach List. All other sea cucumbers: see unclassified marine invertebrates.
	RED	Year-round	None		
SEA URCHINS					
ALL WATERS	GREEN	Year-round	None	36	
	PURPLE	Year-round	None	18	
	RED	Year-round	None	18	
SEAWEED All state park beaches are closed to SEAWEED harvest except Fort Flagler, Fort Ebey, and Fort Worden State Parks which are open to SEAWEED harvest from Apr. 16-May 15 only.					
ALL AREAS	KELP, SEA LETTUCE	Year-round	None	10 lbs. wet weight	Illegal to harvest any seaweed if herring eggs are attached. Titlow Beach Marine Preserve closed to all harvest. See Marine Area 13 map.
SHRIMP See page 54.					
SQUID					
ALL WATERS	ALL SPECIES	Year-round	None	5 qts. or 10 lbs.	Legal gear is a baitfish jig, a maximum of 4 squid lures, a herring rake, or a hand dip net. Each harvester must have a separate container.
UNCLASSIFIED MARINE INVERTEBRATES Call Marine Biotoxins Hotline before harvesting: 1-800-562-5632.					
ALL AREAS	MOONSNAILS	Year-round	None	5	ALL SPECIES - Each harvester must have a separate container. Possession limit is one daily limit. No harvest in State Parks.
	NUDIBRANCHS	Year-round	None	2	
		ALL OTHERS (starfish sand dollars, shore crabs, snails, etc.)	Year-round	None	Aggregate of 10

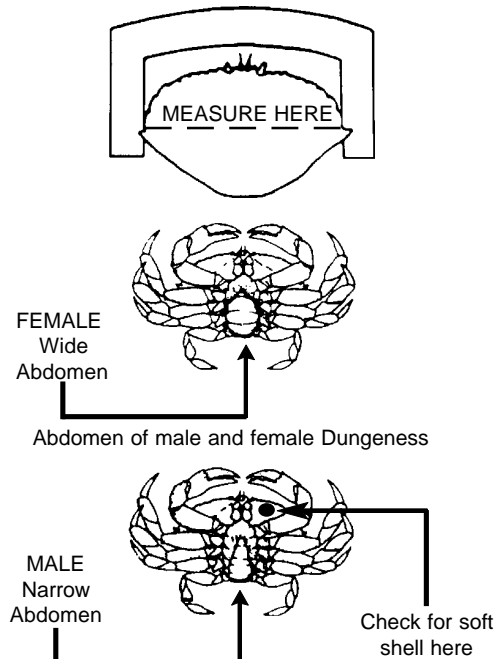
Species Rules



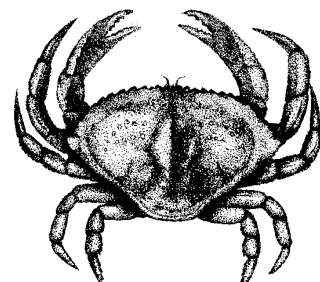
AREA	SPECIES	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	SEASON
CRAB: May not retain Puget Sound king crab or box crab. Must retain the back shell with crab while in the field. Must release all softshell crab (underside of shell flexes with finger pressure). Fishing instruments must not penetrate the shell. Check gear rules. Catch record card required to fish for Dungeness.				
PUGET SOUND			Season - all gear	
Hood Canal (Marine Area 12)	Dungeness	6"	6 males	Open year-round except closed by emergency order for soft shell or allocation. Check shellfish hotline before fishing.
	Red Rock	5"	6 either sex	
All other Puget Sound Areas	Dungeness	6-1/4"	6 males	
	Red Rock	5"	6 either sex	
Fidalgo Bay - crabbing is prohibited at all times within 25 yards of the Burlington Northern Railroad Trestle. Padilla Bay - crab gear may only be set or pulled from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset within 25 yards of the Burlington Northern Railroad Trestles located at the north end of Swinomish Slough.				
COLUMBIA RIVER			Pot season below - other gear open year-round.	
	Dungeness	5-3/4"	12 males	Dec. 1-Sept. 15
	Red Rock	5"	6 either sex	Dec. 1-Sept. 15
PACIFIC OCEAN (Including Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay)			Pot season below - other gear open year-round.	
	Dungeness	6"	6 males	Dec. 1-Sept. 15
	Red Rock	5"	6 either sex	Dec. 1-Sept. 15

Where and How to Measure for Minimum Size

Caliper measurement at the widest part of the shell just in front of rear-most point or tips.

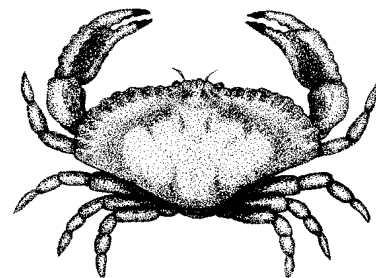


Dungeness Crab



White-tipped claws, brownish shell

Red Rock Crab



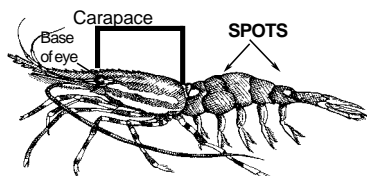
Black-tipped claws, reddish shell, shell much wider than long



Species Rules

AREA	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SHRIMP (Coonstripe, Humpy, Pink, Sidestripe, Spot) All areas except Hood Canal and Port Angeles Harbor require 1-3/16" minimum carapace size for spot shrimp (see diagram below). Immediately release all sublegal spot shrimp unharmed. Each harvester must have a separate container for their catch, either in their possession or identified with their name. Shrimp heads may be removed while in the field, but must be retained for size/weight verification except in Hood Canal. Also see gear rules.				
CARR INLET SHRIMP DISTRICT	ALL SPECIES	CLOSED		See Marine Area 13 map.
DISCOVERY BAY SHRIMP DISTRICT See Marine Area 6 map.	SPOT SHRIMP	1st Sat. in June-check Shellfish Rule change Hotline	Maximum of 50 as part of the 10 lb. limit	Open Saturdays only.
	OTHER SHRIMP	1st Sat. in June-Sept. 30	10 lbs. Heads & Tails	Open daily.
HOOD CANAL SHRIMP DISTRICT	ALL SPECIES	Season opens 9:00 a.m. third Sat. in May; details to be announced	80 Shrimp	See Marine Area 12 map. Check the Fishing Hotline or Shellfish Rule Change Hotline See gear rules. No minimum size for spot shrimp.
PACIFIC OCEAN	ALL SPECIES	Year-round	10 lbs. Heads & Tails	
PORT ANGELES SHRIMP DISTRICT See Marine Area 6 map.	SPOT SHRIMP	1st Sat. in June-1st Sat. in Sept.	10 lbs Heads & Tails	Open Saturdays and Sundays only. No minimum size for spot shrimp.
	OTHER SHRIMP	1st Sat. in June-Sept. 30	all species combined	Open daily.
SEQUIM BAY SHRIMP DISTRICT	ALL SPECIES	CLOSED		See Marine Area 6 map.
PUGET SOUND (except Shrimp Districts above)	SPOT SHRIMP	3rd Sat. in Apr. until quota or Oct. 15 Check Shellfish rule change hotline	10 lbs. Heads & Tails	Allocation closures and/or depth restrictions may be required. Areas 8-1, 8-2, 9, and 10 are CLOSED Mon.-Wed. each week.
	OTHER SHRIMP	3rd Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 15	all species combined	

Spot Shrimp



Spot shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*) are distinguished by four white spots on the body. **All Areas, except Hood Canal and Port Angeles Harbor, have a 1-3/16" minimum size limit, measured from the base of the eyestalk to the top rear edge of the carapace.** Spot shrimp may reach 10" in total length.

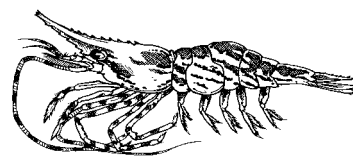
Pink Shrimp



Pink shrimp (*Pandalus eous* and *P. jordani*) are small (less than 6") and uniformly pink.

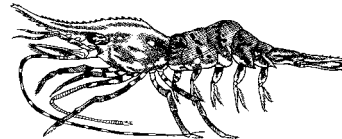
These drawings are by Gae Pilon, as modified from Butler, T. H. 1980 "Shrimp of the Pacific Coast of Canada" Department of Fish and Oceans, Canada.

Coonstripe (Dock) Shrimp



Coonstripe or dock shrimp (*Pandalus danae*) are brownish in color with brown lines and spots on the head and tail. This species may grow to 5-1/2" in length.

Coonstripe (Humpback) Shrimp



The coonstripe or humpback shrimp (*Pandalus hypsinotus*) is mottled reddish-brown with some white patches on the head and tail. This species may reach 7-1/2" in length.

Statewide Gear Rules - Crab, Shrimp, and Crawfish



Caution

Sportfishing rules for crab, shrimp and crawfish are subject to change based on tribal negotiations. Check the Shellfish Rule Change Hotline or watch your local media for potential changes. See pages 50, 52 and 53 for seasons and other harvest rules.

One star trap, one ring net, or one pot is considered one unit of gear. The maximum number of units of gear that may be fished per person is:

Puget Sound except Hood Canal:	Four units, two for crab and two for shrimp.
Hood Canal (during shrimp season):	No more than one shrimp pot and a total of two ring nets or star traps for crab. No more than 4 shrimp pots may be on board or fished by any one boat.
Hood Canal (remainder of year):	Two units of crab gear
Coastal waters:	Two units total
All freshwater areas:	Two units for crawfish

Every shellfish pot, ring net, or star trap left unattended in Washington waters must have its own buoy line and a separate buoy that is permanently and legibly marked with the operator's first name, last name, and permanent address (telephone number is voluntary). Only one name and address may appear on a buoy. Buoy lines must be weighted sufficiently to prevent them from floating on the surface.

Buoys must be:

- Constructed of durable material (no bleach, antifreeze, or detergent bottles, paint cans, etc.).
- Visible on the surface at all times except during extreme tidal conditions.
- Half red and half white for crab (both colors should be displayed when in floating position). Yellow for shrimp. The personal marker flag and staff, if attached, may be any color.

It is illegal to pull an unattended shellfish pot, ring net, or star trap with a buoy that does not have your name on it. However, any fisher may assist the person whose name is on the buoy while he or she is pulling the pot. Shrimp pots, crab pots, star traps and ring nets may not be tended from a vessel at night (one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise).

All parts of ring nets and star traps must lie flat on the sea bottom and may not restrict free movement of crab until lifted. Shellfish pots must be covered by water at all times while being fished.

All crab, shrimp, and crawfish pots must be equipped with a biodegradable device consisting of either:

- (1) securing the pot lid hook or tiedown strap with a single loop of cord; or
- (2) sewing a 3" by 5" escape panel in the upper half of pot closed with cord; or
- (3) attaching the pot lid or one pot side (serving as a pot lid) with no more than three single loops of cord.

Cord used must be untreated 100% cotton or other natural fiber no larger than thread size 120 or 1/8-inch. This cord, when attached as described above, must be able to rot away and allow crab, shrimp, crawfish, and fish to escape freely if the pot is lost. Minimum mesh size for crab pots is 1-1/2". All crab pots must have two 4-1/4-inch minimum inside diameter escape rings in the upper half of the pot. Shrimp pots must not exceed 10 ft. in perimeter, maximum height 18 inches.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR HOOD CANAL (Marine Area 12)

SHRIMP POT: Pots must be constructed of mesh material, except for the entrance tunnels, and must allow a 7/8" square peg to pass through each mesh without changing the shape of the mesh opening (no liners allowed). See the diagram below.

Tunnels must enter from the sides of the pot, and may be made of any size mesh material. The sum of the maximum tunnel widths must not exceed one-half the perimeter of the bottom of the pot.

LOST GEAR

Do not attempt to salvage lost shellfish gear from Hood Canal without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Program. Call (360) 902-2936.

